

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1512

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN PRESS REVIVES "OPERATION TAR BABY" STORY

1. ON EVE OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S DEPARTURE FOR VISIT TO US AND CARIBBEAN, TIMES OF ZAMBIA HAS CHOSEN TO PUBLISH, IN THREE INSTALLMENTS, FULL TEXT OF 1974 TAD SZULC ARTICLE IN ESQUIRE ON ALLEGED USG SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY AND "OPERATION TAR BABY".

2. IN FIRST INSTALLMENT, WHICH APPEARED APRIL 15, TIMES WRITER ROBINSON MAKAYI QUOTES UNIDENTIFIED "TOP GRZ" OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT, APART FROM GENERAL REVIEWS OF VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND US AID TO ZAMBIA, ZAMBIANS WILL MOST LIKELY RAISE IN WASHINGTON TWO "THORNY ISSUES" OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION AND DAVIS APPOINTMENT. ARTICLE QUOTES UNNAMED FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL AS REVEALING THAT GRZ HAD COMMUNICATED TO SECY KISSINGER ITS FEELINGS ABOUT DAVIS APPOINTMENT IN LIGHT OF CHILE AFFAIR AND ADDING: "I THINK DR. KISSINGER AND USG DISPLAYED A HIGH DEGREE OF INSENSITIVITY TO AFRICA." INTRODUCING SZULC ARTICLE, MAKAYI NOTES THAT ALTHOUGH SOUTHERN AFRICA NSDM WAS DRAWN UP IN 1970, "IT IS STILL BEING USED AS THE MAIN BASIS OF FORD ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA"

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DESPITE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE APRIL 1974 PORTUGUESE COUP."

INTRODUCTION CONCLUDES THAT "ZAMBIAN DELEGATION MIGHT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW AMERICANS HOW MYOPIC THEIR ATTITUDE TO THE EVENTS IN THIS AREA ARE (SIC)."

3. BEGIN LOU: COMMENT: RESURRECTION OF DAVIS APPOINTMENT AND "TAR BABY" CONTROVERSIES AT THIS TIME QUITE POSSIBLY INSPIRED BY TIMES DEPUTY EDITOR BILL SAIDI WHOM WE BELIEVE TO BE OFTEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ANTI-US ARTICLES AND EDITIRIALS CARRIED IN THAT PAPER. SAIDI PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF INITIATING UNHELPFUL PRESS STORIES ABOUT US SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICIES ON HIS OWN.
NELSON

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